

Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AGR-20 COME-00 OPIC-12 IO-13

EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-25 IGA-02 EA-11 L-03 RSC-01

RSR-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /180 W

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R 090813Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0586

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FOOD SITUATION

REF : (A) STATE 155869 (B) BRUSSELS 4556 (C) DACCA 3089

1. PER REF (A) PARA 2. A. AND B., STOCK, ARRIVALS, AND OFFTAKE
FIGURES FOR REMAINDER 1973 ARE AS FOLLOWS ACCORDING TO UNROB
(IN THOUSAND MT):

JULY 1 - STOCK	290
ARRIVALS	82
OFFTAKE (EST)	210
AUGUST 1 - STOCK	162
ARRIVALSYS	208
OFFTAKE (EST)	204
SEPTEMBER 1 STOCK	166
ARRIVALS	341
OFFTAKE (EST)	200
OCTOBER 1 - STOCK	307
ARRIVALS	230
OFFTAKE (EST)	200
NOVERMBER 1 - STOCK	337
ARRIVALS (EST)	80
OFFTAKE (EST)	200

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DECEMBER 1 - STOCK 217

ARRIVALS 100
OFFTAKE (EST) 200
END OF YEAR STOCK 117

2. RE REF (A), PARA 3, AUSTRALIAN 54,000 MT EXPECTED JANUARY AT EARLIEST. 60,000 MT OF JAPANESE 90,000 AVAILABLE THIS CY BUT AWAITS BDG SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS. 18,000 MT WHEAT REF (B) IS INCLUDED BUT REPORTED THAI PURCHASE OF 10,000 MT RICE NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE TABLE. ACCORDING UNROB, NO ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONAL IMPORTS SCHEDULED FOR SECOND HALF FY 1974, EXCEPT FOR CARRYOVER. ADDITIONAL BDG PURCHASE PLANS UNKNOWN.

3. REF (A) PARA 2. C. AND 3. A. - AUGUST 1 FAO REPORT ESTIMATES BORO, AUS AND COMING AMAN AT 2.5, 3.0 AND 7.0 MILLION MT RESPECTIVELY, FOR TOTAL OF 12.5 MILLION. BDG ESTIMATE REMAINS AT 2.1, 3.0 AND 6.8 RESPECTIVELY, FOR TOTAL OF 11.9. BDG TENTATIVELY PLANS PROCUREMENT OF 300,000 MT OF AMAN HARVEST.

4. COMMENTS:

(A) REDUCTION OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OFFTAKES TO 100,000 MT EACH AND PROCUREMENT OF 300,000 MT WOULD PROVIDE END OF YEAR STOCKS AS HIGH AS 500-600,000 MT. UNROB HAS STATED IN WRITING TO UN/NY THAT OFFTAKE LEVELS SHOULD BE REDUCED; THE BDG MUST PROCURE DOMESTICALLY, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MUST BE EMPHASIZED; AND THE COUNTRY WILL GET BY DURING CY 1973. WE CONCUR THESE JUDGMENTS. COMPARISON OF FY 73 REVISED ADP WITH FY 74 ADP DOES NOT INDICATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. IN FACT, SECTOR HAS REDUCED PERCENTAGE AND REAL RESOURCE COMMITMENT AS REPORTED REF (C).

(B) THE ABSENCE OF COMMITMENTS FOR LAST HALF FY 74 (FOR EITHER CONCESSIONAL OR PURCHASED FOOD IMPORTS) INDICATIVE OF LACK BDG FORWARD PLANNING. BDG STILL UNWILLING TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF EXCELLENT BORO AND AUS, OVERALL GOOD FOOD SITUATION, OR TO LET COUNTRY SUPPLY AND PRICE CONDITIONS DICTATE RATION OFFTAKE REQUIREMENT.

(C) COARSE RICE PRICE DROP FROM TAKA 99 TO TAKA 79 OVER LAST 14 WEEKS, AND REPORTED LARGE SCALE SMUGGLING ARE INDIRECT EVIDENCE HARVESTS MUST BE LARGE. TIGHTLY CONTROLLED MONEY SUPPLY LAST FEW MONTHS MAY HAVE ALSO HELPED. THERE IS INCREASED WILLINGNESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DISCUSS SMUGGLING BY PRESS, DONORS, AND BDG. ONE BENGALI NEWSPAPER ARTICLE MAKES EFFORT TO QUANTIFY SMUGGLED AMOUNTS BASED UPON FOOD DEPARTMENT FIGURES. PERSISTENT RUMORS PLACE SMUGGLING AT TWO TO THREE TIMES THE NORMAL 10 PERCENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION LEVEL, ALTHOUGH THESE REMAIN IMPRESSIONISTIC.

(D) REF (A) PARA 4 - LACK BDG FORWARD PLANNING OF REQUIREMENTS, CROP PREDICTIONS AND SCHEDULING OF PURCHASED AND CONCESSIONAL IMPORTS MEAN SUCH PLANNING ON OUR PART INCONSISTENT WITH OUR

POSITION TO EMPHASIZE BDG RESPONSIBILITY THIS AREA. BELIEVE
AID/W SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE STRESS THIS WITH BDG EMBASSY.

DECONTROL AUGUST 9, 1974.
NEWBERRY

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